

MRS. RACHEL LAIRD DIES SUDDENLY

Mother of Large Family of Children Expires After a Brief Illness. Buried in New Cemetery.

Mrs. Rachel Laird left her home and friends during the holidays for the Home Beyond. Her death was no great surprise to her intimate friends and family. Her health had been precarious for three years or longer. The end came on Sunday night last about 11:30. The funeral service was held on Tuesday in the Methodist church, of which she was a devoted member. Rev. E. E. Wiley, of Bluefield, her former pastor, delivered the funeral address. Rev. Mr. Platt, the pastor, had charge of the services. Rev. Jack Ward, who was visiting here, and the ministers of the town, took part in the solemn service. The church was filled with an audience attesting the esteem in which she was held by people who had known her for many years. Burial was conducted by undertaker Peery. Interment was in the new cemetery. The remains of her husband, the late Samuel H. Laird, will be removed from Wittens Mills this week and laid by her side.

The pall bearers were Wade H. Peery, E. F. Witten, T. A. Reppass, Jr., H. W. Pobst, T. R. Smoot, Shields Harman, and H. Brittain.

Mrs. Laird was 60 years of age, and the oldest member of the large family of the late Jas. R. Witten, of this county. She was the mother of nine children—5 sons and four daughters, all living, except two. Those living are James R., John W. T. Oscar, and Edward; Misses Corrie and Cassie and Mrs. A. T. Ratliff, of Hereford, Texas, all of whom, except Mrs. Ratliff, were present at the funeral.

A good woman and devoted Christian mother, a firm, faithful friend, a pious, cheerful Christian, she is sadly missed from her home and by her associates. After life's fitful fever she sleeps well.

We desire to express our gratitude and appreciation to the dear friends and neighbors of our mother, Mrs. Rachel Laird, for their kindness to her and us during her illness and death. We are deeply grateful and pray God's richest blessing on you. Her Children.

RETURNING TO SIMPLE LIFE

Are the citizens of this town returning to the simple life of their fathers? A recent occurrence here is significant. One day last week our mayor appeared on the street evidently, from his strut and general bearing, well pleased with his brain new suit of clothes, to which the attention of his friends was purposely invited. When greeted with complimentary remarks about his clothes and how stylish he was, he was asked, the name of his tailor asked, and other usual inquiries and remarks, he promptly and plainly indicated that such familiarity on the part of poor folks in public was not only embarrassing but positively objectionable, and that he was unwilling to appear as being in the same class with ordinary people. Among others who thus thrust themselves upon the mayor's notice, and greeted by him, was his old friend, A. Z. Litz, who reminded him that he need not be strutting around as the only well dressed man in town, that he had just bought himself a suit quite similar to the mayors, at a cost of \$15.00. The mayor was non-communicative as to the price paid for his suit, it was noticed, and perhaps the public would still be in blissful ignorance on the subject if there had been no barber shop in town.

In this rendezvous of all classes, where all secrets are divulged, and hidden things come to light, a member of the mayors family, in an unguarded moment, dropped the remark that his suit cost just \$9.98. This may mean that the mayor will be forced to resign if he persists in keeping his feet on the ground and his face turned toward the simple life, as it is well known fact that the civic pride of Tazewell people demands that their public servants shall dress in a style of becoming dignity.

Pounding Mill Notes

Pounding Mill, Dec. 30.—Everyone seems to have enjoyed the holidays. Good cheers seemed to have prevailed throughout.

The following pupils are spending the holidays here with parents and friends, H.G. Gillespie, V. P. I. Blackburg, R. F. Gillespie, from Randolph Macom, Miss Barbara Hurt, J. B. Hurt, from Bethany, Misses Mary B. Gillespie and Lois Hurt from Tazewell, Miss Florence Harris from Newport News, Harry Williams, Erwin Tenn., Miss Margaret Hurt a teacher near Bethany, W. Va.

Misses Georgie and Adda Harris stenographers, Bluefield, are spending the holidays with parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Sparks spent Sunday at Cedar Bluff with relatives, Rev. and Mrs. Linkous and others.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Altizer spent Sunday with parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Altizer, Miss Mary B. Altizer with them and spent the night.

Mrs. R. K. Gillespie attended today a family reunion at the home of her mother, Mrs. Mary O'Keefe, Tazewell.

Mrs. W. B. Steele and Miss Rebekah Davis attended today the funeral and burial of their friend, Mrs. Rachel Laird at Tazewell.

The following persons were present at Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Gillespie's stag dinner on last Sunday. Messrs. Peery Brittain, Tazewell, James O'Keefe, Bluefield, George and J. B. Hurt, Rex Steele, F. O. H. G. R. F. and R. K. Gillespie. An excellent dinner and a most enjoyable day was spent.

Miss Lou Murphy, of Norton, spent from Saturday to Monday visiting old neighbors and friends.

Miss Lettie Ringstaff has been quite sick for a few days.

W. R. Sparks returned from several days visit to Whitewood.

Mr. James Neel is taking a week off visiting home folks and friends, assistant G. R. Thomas is carrying the mail.

Mrs. W. B. Steele, Misses Uva Steele and Mabel Bourne and Rex Steele took Xmas dinner with their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. J. Marion McGuire and family at Cedar Bluff.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Trayer left Sunday for Staunton and Roanoke to visit relatives.

C. H. Steele, of Paint Lick and S. F. Allison, of Baptist Valley were business visitors here and Tazewell today.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Gus Christian on the 22nd a fine boy—all doing well.

Tom and Logan Ringstaff, Chas. Robinson, bridegroom, spent the holidays here with home folks.

The Misses Yost, of Tazewell visited Misses Cora and Gussie Christian Xmas day.

Miss C. V. McKeynolds and Miss Mary Brown resumed their school here Monday.

W.C.T.U. will meet at Union church next Sunday at 3:30. Every one come and bring some body.

Mrs. Rose Tabor and little daughter, Thelma, of Wilcox, W. Va., spent Monday here with her old friend and teacher, Mrs. W. B. Steele.

Misses Callie Fordie and Kate Mulkey, of Graham, are visiting their grandmother, Mrs. Susan Ringstaff.

Burke's Garden News

Burke's Garden, Dec. 30.—A party was given last night at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Meek. Everyone present enjoyed the first dance of the holidays.

We regret to learn that Miss Marietta Greever, who has been ill for several months, is not improving. David Crockett is at home for a few weeks vacation, and had as his guest for the holidays, Joseph Leslie, of Tazewell. Miss Miller, of Pulaski, is visiting Miss Katrina Gose.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hoge and family left this morning for their home at Bland, Va., after a week's stay with relatives.

Women and wet feet.

Cold and wet feet are a dangerous combination especially to women, and congested kidneys often result. Backache, urinary irregularities and rheumatic fever are not unusual results. Foley kidney pills restore the regular and normal action of kidneys and bladder and remove the cause of the trouble. Contain no habit forming drugs. For sale by all Druggists.

PHONES ON GRILL AGAIN TONIGHT

Town Council Will Take Up Charges of Inefficiency and Excessive Rates—Chief Operator Here.

The Town Council held a special meeting last Friday night in the new Town Hall, to consider the charges brought against the Bluefield Telephone Company, in reference to excessive charges and inefficient service. The matter was freely discussed, but no definite conclusion reached as to any action that would be taken by the council to remedy the alleged faults. The most serious objection that was considered was the toll charges to Richlands and points adjacent. As to the inefficient service it was the opinion of each member of the council that the inefficiency could not be charged to the young lady operators in the central office, but to the fact that the operators had more telephone calls than they could properly attend to, and that defects existed in the switchboard or the phones, whereby central had to be called more than once before a connection could be obtained.

Mr. St. Clair, counsel for the telephone company, was present, and indicated that the company was anxious to make the service in the county satisfactory, and comply with most any reasonable demands.

Miss Caldwell, chief operator in the office of the Bluefield Telephone Exchange, was here several days this week. The object of her visit was to locate, if possible, the causes, if any, of complaints made by phone subscribers, as to the service here. Whether the troubles complained of are chargeable to the operators, or to defective phones, will be determined, if possible, and then remedied. The company is determined to do its best to give good service and satisfaction if possible. It is customary to permit persons into the central office to ask information, or to use the phones there. This custom, permitted from a commendable desire to be accommodating, interferes with the operator, and it may be has occasionally been the reason why central has not sometimes promptly answered calls. This custom will be absolutely forbidden hereafter, and every other possible step taken to give good service. It has been suggested that the operators here have had more work than they can do quickly. Wherever the trouble is Miss Caldwell will try to locate it, and make her report to headquarters.

A Good, Reliable Churn.

Messrs. C. E. and E. H. Scott have the agency for this county of the "Reliable Churn," which a large number of people saw here when exhibited by the agent sometime ago. It is said that nearly everybody is buying this churn. It has the same, old reliable, up-and-down dasher we have always known, but has a geared attachment and crank handle, which operates the dasher easily and swiftly. Any child can operate it, will last indefinitely. Everybody who keeps a cow should have one of these churns.

An Unpleasant Christmas

Mrs. Morgan F. Wynn and "Uncle Boss" Steele were both forced to spend their Christmas in bed, or confined closely to their rooms. Mrs. Wynn has suffered greatly from an old trouble which now and then "tries itself," just how ugly it can behave. She is better now, and hopes soon to be out again. Mr. Steele had a fall just before Christmas, striking on his side against the stove in his room, and has been in bed or confined to his room since. His falling was due to a sudden dizziness, "swimming in his head," and he toppled. He is recovering—can walk about his room, and expects to be out soon.

Colds to be taken Seriously.

Intelligent people realize that common colds should be treated promptly. If there is sneezing and chilliness with hoarseness, tickling throat and coughing, begin promptly the use of Foley's Honey and Tar Compound. It is effective, pleasant to take, checks a cold, and stops the cough. It causes ease of sleep and lowers the temperature. For sale by all Druggists.

Mrs. Easton Dead.

Mrs. Grace D. Easton, formerly Miss Grace Emschwiller, of Tazewell, died at her home in Richmond Saturday night, December 20, after a short illness of typhoid fever. The remains were brought to Tazewell on Monday following, and interred in the new cemetery. The body was accompanied to Tazewell by her husband, Harry Easton, a former well known printer, of this town, her brother, Lee Emschwiller, of Portsmouth, and Miss Nellie Emschwiller, of Corbett, Md. Besides her husband, Mrs. Easton is survived by one child, only a few years old. A delegation from the Masonic lodge met the remains and party at the train Monday, and were in charge of the burial. Services at the grave were conducted by Revs. Brown, Platt and Buston.

Benbow News

Benbow, Dec. 31.—Mr. French Stephenson, of Bluefield, has been spending Christmas with friends in this section.

Miss Annie Moore one of the lady teachers of the school here, has been spending Christmas in Henry county, Va., and Rockingham county, N.C. She reports a delightful trip.

Mrs. Amanda Walk has been spending the week with her daughters, Mrs. Jas. Harrison and Mrs. V. L. Stephenson.

Miss Ruth Moore, one of the girls of Benbow has been teaching near Eggleston, has been spending her Xmas at this place. Rev. W. H. Hicks preached a very fine sermon here last Sunday.

Steelsburg News

Steelsburg, Dec. 29.—Christmas passed off very quiet here. Some celebrated it by getting married; some by getting drunk—a few dances, and we suppose the holidays are over.

Hunters are making good use of the few days allowed them for the sport.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lester, who has been very ill, is improving.

Mr. Lyle Houchen, of Cincinnati, is spending the holidays here with his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McGraw.

Elmer and Fred Witten were visiting at Liberty Hill Sunday. Mr. Clarence Burnett and Miss Minnie White were married Christmas day also. Mr. Whitt Wysor and Miss Mable Stinson on the 24th.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Oney left last week for Hot Springs, where they expect to visit for about three months.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Steele were the guests of Mrs. T. A. McGuire at Cedar Bluff Sunday. Elmer, Fred and Nellie Witten attended the birthday party of Pat Cecil at Indian Monday, and enjoyed a pleasant evening. There were about seventy present.

Steelsburg, Dec. 29.—Christmas passed off very quietly at this place.

Mr. Harmon Johnson, of Bluefield, W. Va., has been visiting friends here for a few days.

Mr. J. H. Nipper was visiting Mr. F. M. McGuire last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Steele were visiting at Cedar Bluff last Sunday.

Miss Thelma Houchens and brother, of Cincinnati, Ohio, are visiting their grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McGraw, this week.

Mr. John W. Fields left last Friday for his home at Coeburn, after spending a week with friends and relatives here.

Miss Maudelle Seatt, the teacher here, did not go home but spent the holidays visiting the patrons of the school.

Mr. Otto Mansfield visited his cousins on Gray's Branch last Sunday.

Miss Mandeje Seatt spent last Thursday night with Miss Jord Ball.

Mrs. Sarah Griffiths spent last Saturday afternoon visiting Mrs. J. H. Martin.

Henson, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lester, who has been very sick, we are glad to say is convalescent.

Miss Minnie White and Mr. Clarence Burnett were married on December 25, at the home of the brides parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. White.

A pretty home wedding was solemnized at the home of Mr. Thomas Stinson of Gray's Branch, Wednesday, December 24 when his beautiful daughter, Miss Mabel, became the bride of Mr. Whitt Wysor, a promising young citizen of this county. This young couple are now on their honeymoon.

TO RETURN TO OLD TIME COUNTY FAIR

Annual Meeting Adopts Resolution Dispensing With Costly Races. To Be Further Considered.

"Resolved, That the Tazewell County Fair of 1914 be held as an old time county fair, and that the association withdraw from the Virginia Fair Circuit, and that the professionally trained horses be barred from the races; provided, however, that the matter may be considered at a meeting to be held January 31st, if a majority of the stockholders will notify the secretary before January 21st of their desire to hold such a meeting for the purpose of considering the matter."

The above resolution was adopted unanimously at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Tazewell Fair Association held Saturday, Dec. 27th. There has been a sentiment in favor of abolishing the usual races, for several years, both in the community and among the managers of the association. It was decided to try it one year as a test and to hold this year a County Fair strictly. The experiment will be watched with interest. It was provided, however, that a meeting of the stockholders be held on January 31st to reconsider the above resolution, if so desired by the stockholders. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—K. D. R. Harman, North Tazewell; C. R. Brown, E. L. Greever, W. A. Scott, C. J. Moss, Vice-Presidents; W. G. O'Brien, present incumbent, secretary and treasurer.

Marshall, Henry Copenhaver. The former board of directors were re-elected.

Christmas in the Garden.

Burke's Garden had a large share of old time weather for Christmas, also much old time, hearty good cheers. There were a number of "big dinners," much gift making, visiting, etc., among the denizens of that shut-in paradise. A notably good time was had by the youngsters at the splendid home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Meek Monday night the 29th. The names of nearly 50 of the young people who participated in the festivities of the occasion, have been handed into this office but cannot be given here for want of space. The boys and girls had a good time. There was dancing of the old-fashioned, square kind of the long ago. The musicians rattled off "Chicken in the Dough Tray," "Arkansas Traveler," "Soldiers Joy," "Can't You Dance a Bee Line and other old tunes, some of them wordless but all of them full of foot-patting go in them. The figures of the Old Virginia Reel, "Swing Your Partners," "Ladies to the Right," "Through the Center," "Round and Round," were called, just like they used to be when these "kids" mothers and fathers used to dance in the days of yore. "A thoroughly good time" seems to be the verdict of all present.

Mr. Greever Married

Mr. Edgar L. Greever, of the law firm of Greever and Gillespie, and Miss Virginia Greever, were married at the bride's home at Chilhowie last Monday. The wedding was a quiet one, only a few relatives and close friends being present.

Mr. and Mrs. Greever left after the marriage for an extensive wedding tour, which will include a visit to the Bahamas. After the middle of January, Mr. and Mrs. Greever will be at home at Welch, W. Va.

Page-Kelly.

Miss Lena Kelly and Mr. L. W. Page, were married at the home of the bride in the Jeffersonville hotel, on Wednesday morning, by Rev. Father Oliver, of Bluefield.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kelly, of this town, and one of Tazewell's most splendid and attractive young women. The groom is a trusted engineer of the Norfolk and Western. The ceremony was witnessed by only a few intimate friends and relatives of the parties. Mr. and Mrs. Page will reside in Bluefield.

To Our Subscribers.

The editor sends greetings to every one of you, and wishes you a prosperous New Year. The year 1914 will be better in many respects than any one of its predecessors. If you do not find it so it will be your fault. Try to be happy. If you are not happy you will not be prosperous—sure thing.

Just about 90 of you communicated with this office during the month of December, sending money in amounts ranging from one batwing or "buck" upwards. Wish we could publish the names of all of you! At the very last came a letter from Judge Alex Beavers, in time, however, to move his figures up before his time was quite out. "Alex" is living the simple life, on his farm in Loudon county. The first remittance of the new year was from our old friend, Capt. T. A. Caudill, who left us for Maryland some years ago. He says: "May you live long and continue to talk good roads, better schools, bigger hogs, taller corn and more alfalfa," and so we will. Speaking of Beavers—the "B." list is the largest of our entire list. There are a number of these "B's" we are anxious to hear from. Some of them haven't said a word for a long time—we hope they are not dead. Does your name begin with B? If so, for mercy's sake say something. If you don't we may conclude you are dead. The month of January will be "B" month. We hope to hear from every subscriber whose name begins with a B, during January. And then we will let you be for sometime—we want to clear up the B box. Of course all others will be heard, as well, but specially the B's this month.

Our friend, W. C. Witten, of Steelsburg, sends the paper as a Christmas present to a relative in Nebraska. Judge Graham drops a card from Florida: "Bob" Johnson, the machinery man, a card with his photo on it—a face once seen never forgotten. Speaking of Witten—Will Witten was here this week on the sad occasion of the death of his sister, Mrs. Laird. He lives in Jenkins, Ky., and is doing well as lumberman and farmer in that rich, moonshine section—about 20 miles North of Norton on the Big Elkhorn. The B and O railway comes in there somewhere, and that is a growing section. Will was once deputy Marshall here under the late John Watts, and always rode a good horse and carried a good gun in every pocket.

Along in those days there lived, moved and hid sometimes in the wild woods about Raven, an independent, good natured, but sometimes troublesome citizen, popular in his section, named—well, his name need not be given. Marshall Watts sent his men to that section to locate, capture and bring in said citizen, who had charges filed against him on the Marshall's records. Witten, along with about a dozen, more or less mounted and heavily armored cavalymen after a long ride and tedious hunt finally had their quarry surrounded in a dense thicket in a denser darkness, and in whispers were debating the next move when bang! bang! rang their mans Winchester lighting up the darkness in streaks, tearing and scattering splinters from the fence rails and bark from the trees. "Boys," somebody said, "he's got our range," and the sound of clattering horse hoofs were heard nearly to Richlands. Speaking of the matter the next day, Will said he couldn't hold his horse to save his life. The entire party drew rein away along up about Cedar Bluff Will said the other day that he still remembered that night, and always will.

Jo. Jones, always on time; Miss Gertrude Howell, who sends the paper as a present for a year to her sister in Georgia; John Dailey, Mont Clark at Honaker; Mrs. John Carnahan, who with her splendid daughter, said the community a memorable visit last fall, and many others "too numerous to mention," were Christmas subscribers. Not a single "kick" not one "stop my paper" during the month. We feel good.

Do you begin to cough at night just when you hope to sleep? Do you have tickling throat that keeps you awake? Just take Foley's Kidney and Bladder Compound. It will stop the tickle, does not upset the stomach, and is safe for children. Sold by all druggists.

CONVICTS GIVEN A CHRISTMAS DINNER

Good People of The Cove and Vicinity Contribute Liberally to Cheer of Unfortunate Men.

Commendable and praiseworthy was the fine Christmas dinner given the road force at the convict camp near Liberty Hill, by the good people of that community. Superintendent Vines is loud in his praise, and appreciation beyond his power to express. The ladies came in force on Christmas day with great loads of the best that rich community affords, and the sixty or seventy men, black and white, prisoners, guards, bosses and all, including a lot of "company", all ate and were filled, and more than twelve baskets full of "fragments" were taken up. Capt. Vines says there was enough turkey left over for a fine breakfast of hash for next morning. The thoughtful donors will never know how highly this kindness was appreciated by burden-bearers "in prison", whom they "visited" on this Christmas morning.

A list of the names of participating in this gift of good things is given below. The names of the ladies are given only to say space. Their husbands are included also: Mesdames: G. W. Ward, W. O. Barnes, Joe Barnes, L. S. White, S. A. White, Jeff Gillespie, J. O. Brown, S. J. Thompson, O. B. Barnes, R. F. Bowen, Jim Stevenson, W. R. Bowen, J. S. Bowen, Alex Barnes, H. Y. Brown. Of Plum Creek, J. A. Crockett, Will Leese.

High Jinks at North Tazewell.

Bluefield, January 1.—Having stopped over at North Tazewell to spend a few days to recuperate from the arduous duties of my profession (I'm a burglar), I sauntered over to the church, hoping to "lift" the communion service and found all the people there before me enjoying one of the very sturdiest little shows that I have seen in all my burglarious career. When I arrived a well dressed little angel, with folded wings, was waving a by-by wand over a lot of little angels that I guess would be called little "broilers"—up there. It was a lovely scene and that girl with the wand and the folded wings has come nearer converting me from my evil ways than ten years in Sing Sing ever did. After the scene, which I will remember as long as I stay single, another beautiful little broiler pranced into the ring with a brand new doll baby in her arms and gave it, and Santa Claus and Christmas a monologue that ought to make the broiler, the doll baby and all the boys good till this time next week. After this came a tableaux-pantomime which for good staging, good acting and beauty of arrangement, can't be beat in little old New York, which is my home when I'm not inspecting post office safes, or practicing the lockstep up the river.

Six girls, evidently selected for beauty of face and figure, as well as grace of movement, took their places on the stage. They were called "fryin' size" by a reform school boy who was seated in front of men and who called out their names. I will remember as long as life lasts. They were Elizabeth Hall, Louise Keister, Evelyn Ireson, Stella, and Betty Williams and Eva Hackworth. Now, I've often heard of the manual of arms but never knew what it meant until these six girls performed in response to the spirit of low music by an invisible choir. The music was from Offenback's Dreams of Heaven and the responses of the fair neophytes in waving of arms, graceful and beautiful poses was in keeping with the jubilee spirit of the time. I sure had a queer effect on a traveling cracksmen. I had spied out a few promising safes to town and could have made a good haul, but that show! I swore off and will never crack another crib—in North Tazewell.

Wishing everybody many happy returns of the happy yuletide, I am yours tenderly, Sim Slick.

Furs Wanted

Addresses of trappers and fur buyers in all sections, write me and get your name in our list. Address.